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AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Riſe, Progreſs, and preſent State

OF

FRIENDS

School and *Work-houſe*,

AT

Clerkenwell, LONDON:

Together with

Some PROPOSALS for rendering this FOUNDATION more extenſively uſeful; and the ORDER of the Quarterly-Meeting of LONDON for a *Subſcription* for this Purpoſe.

Printed by LUKE HINDE, 1754.

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Title, Progress, and present State

OF

FRIENDS

School and Work-houses,

Clerkenwell, LONDON:

Together with

Some PROPOSALS for rendering this FOUNDATION more exactly useful; and the ORDER of the Quarterly-Meeting of London for a Subscription for this Purpose.

Printed by LUKE HINDE, 1751.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE Riſe, Progreſs, &c.

ABOUT the Year 1700, the *Friends* in this City, in order to provide for their *Poor* in the moſt comfortable manner, and to procure for their Off-ſpring a ſober, induſtrious and religious Education, ſet on foot a *general Subſcription* for theſe Purpoſes: In about a Year they ſo far ſucceeded in this Undertaking, as to raiſe the Sum of 1888 *l.* which enabled them to procure the Leaſe of the preſent *School* and *Work-houſe*, and to render it commodious for the Reception of thoſe who were to be maintained and educated therein.

The good Effects of this Eſtabliſhment induced *Friends* in this City, about the Year 1715, to ſet on foot a *ſecond Subſcription*, by which the Sum of 437 *l.* was raiſed, and added to the *Stock* of the Houſe. Since that Time, no general Subſcription has been undertaken; nevertheleſs the *Capital* has been *conſiderably increaſed*

increaſed by many generous *Bequeſts* and *Donations.*

But as a much larger Number of *Objects* preſented, than could be maintain'd by the *ſole Income* of the Houſe, it was deemed expedient that thoſe who recommended any *Poor* to the Houſe, whether Monthly-meetings or particular Perſons, ſhould bear a Part of the Expence, in order that the Advantages of ſuch an *Inſtitution* might be felt more diffuſively. And tho' 3 *s.* per Week are paid with every *aged* or *poor Friend*, 1 *s.* per Week with every *Child*, beſides 40 *s.* at each *Child*'s Admiſſion for *Clothing*, thoſe who have the Charge of ſuch *Objects* are conſiderable Savers, as neither the *Aged* nor the *Youth* could be ſo comfortably and ſuitably provided for at the like Expence elſewhere.

From the *firſt Eſtabliſhment* of this Houſe in 1701, to the Commencement of the preſent Year, 246 *ancient poor Friends*, 577 *Boys* and *Girls* have been admitted; and the Family at preſent conſiſts of upward of 100 Perſons.

From the *ancient People* it is required that they obſerve the Rules of the Houſe, be Examples of Sobriety and good Order, aſſiſt one another when ſick; and the *Women* to lend their Aſſiſtance in mending and getting up the Linen of the Houſe when waſhed.

The *Boys* are inſtructed in the Morning in Reading, Writing and Accompts; in the Afternoon they are employed in ſuch Work as is ſuited to their Strength, and which at the ſame Time,

Time, as it inures them to Labour and Induſtry, brings ſome Benefit to the Houſe.

The *Girls* are likewiſe taught Reading, Writing, and the moſt uſeful Parts of Needle-work; ſome of the Eldeſt are by Turns taken into the Kitchen, inſtructed in Houſewifry and other domeſtick Employments ſuitable to their Sex and Station.

The Houſe is under the immediate Care of a *Steward* and *Stewardeſs*, *School-maſter* and *School-miſtreſs*, *Work-maſter*, and other neceſſary Servants, who act according to the Rules preſcribed to them by the *Committee* who have the Care of the Houſe.

This *Committee* conſiſting of 18 *Friends*, choſen by the Six Monthly-meetings of this City, have the Direction of the Affairs of the Houſe, and are accountable to this Quarterly-meeting, to which an exact Account of its State is annually preſented. This *Committee* meets every Month, to *admit* and *diſcharge* Children, *&c.* to *examine* the Accompts, *enquire* into the *Behaviour* of thoſe they *employ*, to *inſpect* the *Proviſions*, and *ſee* that they are *good*, and that due *Order* and *Decency* are obſerved in the Family.

Beſide theſe *ſtated* Meetings, three of the *Committee* are appointed to Viſit the Houſe, *twice* at leaſt every Month, or oftner if they think fit, in order that the *ſame* Care, the *ſame* Order and Regularity may be continued in the Intervals.

And

And ſuch has been the Effect of *Friends* Diligence and Care in the Management of this *Eſtabliſhment*, that as its Advantages have been felt by many in the Society, ſo it has afforded Matter of juſt Commendation to Perſons of Rank of other Denominations.

The Reduction of Intereſt, the increaſing Neceſſity of Repairs, together with the Expence of ſome late valuable and neceſſary Improvements, will perhaps place the Time at a Diſtance, when the Income of the Houſe will be equal to its Diſburſments; though this Period may be nearer than ſome may expect, as the Hearts of many are warm and open towards this uſeful Foundation: In the mean Time ſome preſent Exigencies and freſh Propoſals for its Benefit, induce us to call upon thoſe who are of Ability, to *imitate* the generous Example of thoſe who firſt began it, and in their Life-time enjoy the Satisfaction of promoting the Happineſs of a Part of their fellow Creatures, whom Providence has permitted to become the Objects of their Compaſſion.

By the Conſent and Approbation of this Meeting, the *Committee* have lately taken a Piece of Ground adjoining to the Houſe, whereby they have been enabled to make ſeveral advantageous Improvements, both in reſpect to the Health, Convenience and Oeconomy of the Family.

To defray the Expence of theſe Improvements and ſome neceſſary Repairs, this Meeting gave Leave to the *Committee* to borrow a Sum not exceeding 500 *l.* upon Intereſt, it appearing

that

that without breaking in upon the *Capital*, to which this Meeting hath ever been averſe, the *Income* of the Houſe was inſufficient to diſcharge it. And it having been repreſented to this Meeting, that by reaſon of the Smallneſs of the Sum uſually given with Children brought up in the Houſe, and put out Apprentices, they are often in danger of loſing the Fruits of a ſober and virtuous Education, by being placed with ſuch whoſe Characters, Employments or Examples, are not ſuch as could be wiſhed, and whoſe principal Inducement to take an Apprentice, it may be feared is the Fee.

And it having alſo been repreſented to this Meeting, that if a ſmall Sum was to be given to each Child brought up in *Friends School* and *Work-houſe*, at the Expiration of their Apprenticeſhip or Servitude, in proportion as their Behaviour during the Time thereof might appear to deſerve, and the *Fund* allow, it might greatly tend to the Benefit of the ſaid Children, by exciting Endeavours to *merit* the Encouragement propoſed.

And this Meeting having deliberately conſidered the ſeveral Circumſtances of theſe Propoſals, AGREE, That a *Subſcription* be ſet on foot for raiſing the Sum of 400*l.* to pay off the Sum borrowed for the Uſe of the Houſe by the Leave of this Meeting, and for raiſing a Sum to be added to the 600*l.** already bequeathed as

* *viz.* 500*l.* by *Samuel Brewſter*; 100*l.* by *Cornelius Taylor*.

as a *Fund* for *increaſing* the *Apprentice Fee*, given with the Children brought up in *Friends School* and *Work-houſe*; and for beſtowing upon ſuch of the ſaid Children as appear to deſerve it, ſome *ſuitable Reward* at the Expiration of their Apprenticeſhip or Servitude, or at ſuch other Seaſon as ſhall be thought proper.

And this Meeting deſires that the ſaid *Subſcription* may be completed with all convenient Expedition, and that Report may be made of the ſeveral Sums collected for the Purpoſes above mentioned: Which, as they manifeſtly tend to promote the Benefit and Reputation of the Houſe; to procure the Children therein educated, more ſuitable Employments, and the Proſpect of better Examples, and to ſtir them up to behave well in their Places, and becoming their Profeſſion, it is hoped will have due Weight with every *Friend* of Ability, and eſpecially ſuch as have not yet contributed to this commendable and *Chriſtian* Foundation, and induce them to do their Part in rendering it more extenſively uſeful, by a generous and ſpeedy *Subſcription*.

At an Adjournment *of the* Quarterly-meeting, *held at* Grace-church-ſtreet, *the 9th of the* Ninth Month 1754.